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Identical letters dated 11 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

On 7 April 2013, websites associated with the Al-Qaida organization posted an audio recording in which the leader of the organization, Aiman al-Zawahiri, addressed the armed men in Syria, saying, "the fruit of your jihad should be an Islamic State waging jihad, which would be a building block for the return of the righteous Caliphate". His statement urged them to "rally around the watchword of the one God and to struggle in the path of God in order for His law to prevail".

Al-Zawahiri's call met with a swift response from Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Al-Qaida organization in Iraq, "Organization for an Islamic State in Iraq". On 9 April 2013, he said, "the Nusrah Front is fighting to build an Islamic State in Syria", and made the following revelation: "the Nusrah Front is only an extension and a part of Islamic State of Iraq". He stated that the leader of the Nusrah Front, the Al-Qaida operative Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, had been sent with several combatants to fight in the Levant. In his audio message, which was posted on the websites of terrorist organizations, Al-Baghdadi announced that the organization Islamic State of Iraq had merged with the Nusrah Front to form an organization named Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

On 10 April, websites associated with terrorist organizations disseminated an audio recording of the manager of the Nusrah Front in Iraq and the Levant, Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, in which he announced, "the sons of the Nusrah Front and their manager swear allegiance to the shaykh of jihad Aiman al-Zawahiri and are at his command".

These statements from the leadership of the Al-Qaida organization underscore the concerns raised by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in numerous letters to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the

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Security Council, namely, that the activities of the armed terrorist groups are connected with the Al-Qaida organization; that their crimes in Syria represent a threat; that the organization Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant, an Al-Qaida affiliate, controls those criminal activities; and that their shedding of Syrian blood is motivated by obscurantist ideology and *takfirist* fatwas, which exonerate the actions of the group and of allied extremist groups known as the Islamic Battalions.

Although the terrorist organizations' attacks have been documented in letters from the Syrian Government to the United Nations, certain States have prevented the Security Council from condemning the numerous terrorist crimes for which the Nusrah Front has claimed responsibility. In so doing, they have created an incentive for the terrorists to persist in targeting Syrian civilians with suicide bombings and random mortar fire. In keeping with Al-Qaida's terrorist tactics elsewhere, the attacks have not spared residential buildings, hospitals, Islamic and Christian places of worship, or State institutions that provide services and education.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its warnings of the risk that the international community courts by disregarding the *takfirist* terrorist crimes that are linked to Al-Qaida and carried out by the Nusrah Front and its allies from the Islamic Battalions, as well as by the so-called Free Syrian Army, many components of which recently announced their allegiance to the Nusrah Front, and by ignoring the fact that numerous States, within and outside the region, including, most prominently, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Turkey, are contravening their legal undertakings in respect of counter-terrorism and, in particular, Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), by providing material and logistical support, arms and training, and by harbouring those terrorist groups. Such disregard will promote the spread of terrorism within and beyond the whole Middle Eastern region and will be responsible for the escalation of the activities of terrorist groups allied to Al-Qaida, which does not recognize State borders as an impediment to its terrorist crimes.

The Syrian Arab Republic, having completed the requisite procedures, has submitted a request for the Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant to be included on the Consolidated List established and maintained by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) with respect to individuals, groups, undertakings and other entities associated with Al-Qaida. The Syrian Government hopes that measures will be taken forthwith in response to its request and that the Security Council will play the role with which it is entrusted, namely, to uphold international peace and security, by bringing pressure to bear on the States that are supporting terrorism in Syria to end those illegal practices and cease their attempts in regional and international organizations to impose decisions that are designed to disguise their activities in support of terrorism. The final report issued by the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya includes information on the illicit transfer of arms to Syria in order to support the armed terrorist groups there, using various networks and paths, including through Turkey and northern Lebanon, and refers to such specific events as the seizure in the Lebanese port of Tripoli of the vessel *Lutfalla 2*, to the vessel *Al-Intisar*, the circumstances of which are referred to in the aforementioned report, and the role of the Government of Turkey in providing legal cover. It provides new indications as to the involvement of such States as Qatar, Libya and Turkey in financing and facilitating the passage of arms shipments destined for terrorist groups inside Syria. Furthermore, there have been many reports by the international media on successive flights to a neighbouring country, with the aim of transferring to the terrorists

sophisticated weapons that are funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Those weapons have recently been seen to be delivered to the terrorist organizations, particularly in the southern governorate of Dar'a.

The Syrian Government, in bringing these facts to the attention of the Security Council, asks it to shoulder its responsibilities, in accordance with the counter-terrorism-related Security Council resolutions, and demand that the States that are involved in supporting terrorism in Syria should cease their infractions, which imperil security and peace in Syria, the whole region and the world.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations